

## **EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

**6:00 P. M.  
May 5, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Edgefield County Council was held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, May 5, 2009, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield, SC.

### **Members present**

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman  
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman  
Rodney Ashcraft, Councilman  
Genia Blackwell, Councilwoman  
Norman Dorn, Councilman

### **Others present:**

John W. Pettigrew, Jr., County Administrator  
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney  
Margaret Harling (sitting in for Lynn Strom, Finance/Budget Manager  
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council  
and others as per list attached

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kneece and the invocation was given by John Pettigrew, Administrator. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The May 5, 2009 council agenda was unanimously approved.

### **Minutes**

The motion to approve the April 7, 2009, Minutes of the Regular County Council Meeting and the April 21, 2009, Called Council Meeting as presented, was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports**

No comments.

### **Public Hearing**

A public hearing was held to receive written and/or oral public comments concerning Ordinance No. 08-09-605, "An Ordinance Providing for the 2009-2010 Edgefield County General Operating Budget."

Lovick Mims asked for continued monetary support by the county for Piedmont Tech. He feels this institution is every important to individuals that possibly cannot attend a four year college.

No other comments.

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### **Ordinances**

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-605, , “An Ordinance Providing for the 2009-2010 Edgefield County General Operating Budget.” Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-606, “An Ordinance to Amend Edgefield County Ordinance No. 04-05-558 to Increase the Ten-Dollar Per Vehicle Road Maintenance Fee on All Motorized Vehicles Registered in Edgefield County to Twenty Dollars Effective July 1, 2009.” Motion carried with Councilman Dorn opposing (4-1).

Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-607, “An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for Edgefield County.” Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to a motion being made on Ordinance No. 08-09-608, “An Ordinance to Institute Hours of Operation for Establishments in Edgefield County Which Allow for the On-Premise Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages” Sgt. Chris Wash of the Sheriff’s Dept. addressed council explaining that the sheriff’s office has been looking into this matter for quite sometime. They have been in contact with other counties that have adopted similar ordinances. By having an ordinance in place should cut down on early morning DUI’s and bad wrecks that take place in the early morning hours.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-608. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolutions**

A Resolution Providing for An Intergovernmental Agreement Between Edgefield and McCormick Counties, Whereby the Two Counties Will Jointly Utilize Edgefield County’s Convenience Center Located at the Intersection of US Highway 378 and S-19-67” passed unanimously with a motion made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell.

### **New Business**

#### **Westside Volunteer Fire Department Appointment**

Council received a request from the Westside Volunteer Fire Department to change their Fire Board representative from Chairman Charles David Jones to Assistant Chief Christopher Scott Vivas. The request was approved by a motion made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

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### **Registered vehicles/delinquent taxes**

Councilman Dorn requested information concerning registered vehicles and delinquent taxes for Edgefield County. He asked for the number of registered vehicles in the county. Mr. Pettigrew stated that the latest figure that the auditor has is 22,474 registered vehicles for the prior fiscal year – from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. This has been stable over the last couple of years – has not varied much. We do not have another complete year (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009) meaning any vehicle purchased during that time is not counted in the 22,474 figure.

**Delinquent taxes.** Mr. Dorn questioned the late fees on delinquent taxes. Why there isn't more money available for funding requests if there is that much money coming in. The administrator explained those fees go to pay for the costs of the delinquent collections. There are several mailings plus certified costs, returned receipt mailings, posting of the property (physical posting) making pictures of the posting, advertising in papers for three weeks and costs involved for the selling of the property. The tax itself on the property goes to the treasurer but most of the fees go toward expenses of the collections.

### **Old Business**

#### **Tax Board of Appeals appointment**

Councilman Bright brought before council the name of Daniel Johnson, 661 Woodward Lake Rd., Trenton, to fill the one remaining at-large vacancy on the Tax Board of Appeals. Councilman Bright made the motion to appoint Mr. Johnson to fill this position, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Census 2010 Complete Count Committee**

Ms. Doris Jones, Census Bureau, previously asked each council member to appoint an individual to serve on a *Complete County Committee*. Ms. Jones stated at the April meeting that she would like a minimum of five but could have as many as seven to nine. She will work with the committee, the goal being to encourage people to participate in the census and build the awareness of the census throughout the county. She had suggested that maybe we look for individuals throughout different areas of the county and municipalities representing various demographic areas of the county.

**Councilman Bright submitted the name of Trisha Knight, Trenton, SC.**

**Councilman Dorn appointed Mrs. Charlena Garrett of Edgefield.**

**Tonya Browder of Edgefield volunteered.**

Council approved all three to serve.

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### **County Office Building Project**

Chairman Kneece stated “we have a county office building project that we have been working on. The present thing that we have right now is the project on Railroad Street off Penn Street. Chairman Kneece asked Mike Reed, Building Official to speak further on this project.

“The tract of land is buildable for a 5,000 sq. ft building and could even increase that to about 7,000 sq. ft. and still have ample room for it. We would put the building close to the existing parking lot that is right across the street from the Sheriff’s Office we wouldn’t encounter too much fill – I think we should be able to get by with about 400 yards of fill which wouldn’t be a significant amount to get a good building pad on there.

A rough estimate of the time line to have an engineer and architect and a general contractor to build the 5,000 sq. ft. building we are looking at just past the end of the year. It would probably take six months with the construction part and about a month and a half to select an architect, probably about two months in the designing phase with the county council’s approval of designs going back and forth on some selections and probably another month and a half to select a general contractor. It probably could be reduced a couple of months depending on the work force of the contractor. These are just taking extreme numbers on each of the items so it could be built a little sooner if need be but to give us enough time we are looking at after the first of the year into April or May.”

Motion was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell to proceed with the boring and get everything started. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Administrator’s Report**

Our recreation program is still in full swing. The soccer spring season ends this week and girls’ softball and baseball run through June. Good participation and good feedback about this program.

Increase in building permits for the month of April.

The Edgefield County Alliance will have their next meeting Monday morning, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 A. M. at Piedmont Tech. Guest speaker will be Sen. Shane Massey.

### **Northside Recreation Park update**

Councilman Dorn asked the administrator for an update on the park. The administrator asked if this concerned the rest room facilities. He stated that since the last meeting our recreation director, Nick Wates, has looked at some free standing rest rooms in Lexington County and he has received a price from a company a couple days ago. The company will bring the building and set it up on the property.

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At some point that can be brought before council at your (Dorn's) discretion. The building that Mr. Wates looked at has water and sewer hooked to it and it is not a self-contained unit. There are some in the National Forest that he wants to look at and take pictures of prior to a final decision being made. Councilman Dorn asked this to be placed on the June 2<sup>nd</sup> agenda.

No one signed up to speak but the chairman asked if there was anyone that would like to address council.

Roy Blackwell did state that "just curious about the building project." What swayed the council to the Railroad property rather than the Church Street property? Chairman Kneece replied that was just what was decided on. It is our prerogative to put it where we see fit. The main thing this site is accessible by foot – you can walk to the courthouse, any place in the town.

### **Lynn and Mary Hoffman**

Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman each spoke on behalf and in appreciation of the Tompkins Library. They have been researching family history for many years here, regular visitors from Florida. Without the resources provided by the Tompkins Library, Mrs. Hoffman stated she would not be able to research her family; her great-grandfather was born in Edgefield County in 1829.

### **Claims approved as follows:**

<b>PAYROLL</b>	<b>3/23/09 thru 4/5/09</b>	
Regular.....		\$223,321.03
<b>PAYROLL:</b>	<b>4/06/09 thru 4/19/09</b>	
Regular.....		\$230,342.72
<b>PAYROLL</b>	<b>4/20/09 thru 5/3/09</b>	
Regular.....		\$224,994.54
<b>General Operating.....</b>		<b>\$872,697.09</b>

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular scheduled meeting of council will be held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, June 2, 2009, with a public hearing and a budget work session to be held on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield.

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C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

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Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

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Rodney Ashcraft, Councilman

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Genia Blackwell, Councilwoman

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Norman Dorn, Councilman

**ATTEST**

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Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

